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One Cent

THE CHICAGO TELEPHONE CO.—ROBBER OF PEOPLE—PAYER OF STARVATION WAGES

Consider The Chicago Telephone Co. in the light of Prof. Edward W. Bemis' report.

It takes from the people in unreasonable rates \$700,000 every year.

It underpays its girl employees so miserably that heaven alone knows how much sorrow, how much suffering it has caused.

It has not even given the people decent service. And it has treated without civility the complaints of its patrons.

It is a part of the great trust, The American Telephone & Telegraph Co., and as such a part of one of the richest and most grasping monopolies in the land.

It pays to the trust every year a percentage of the gross receipts, pilfered from the people of Chicago and its own employees, that is beyond all reason.

And of all these things, the most important, since it is the most cruel, is the starvation wages the company pays to its employees. Look at the figures:

In the first six months of 8 hours a day labor, a girl operator is paid only \$23.84 a month.

At the end of three years, if

she has managed to hold out so long, she can get only \$39 a month.

At the end of ten years of faithful service, if, in the mercy of God, she has not meantime died of starvation, she may be paid the great sum of \$49.86 a month.

Beyond that amount she may not go, even although she work for the company 50 years, as Edward Nevers did for Marshall Field & Co.

B. E. Sunny, president of the company, has made a pitiful plea for two weeks in which to consider the report to the gas, oil and electric light committee of the council, which must act on the report.

It ought not to take the people of Chicago two weeks to decide what action should be taken on the figures shown.

Bemis is an expert. He has taken one year in which to go into every phase of the company's business, and so he knows whereof he speaks.

It is intolerable that this arm of the octopus trust should be permitted to go through the pockets of the people at the rate of \$700,000 a year.